

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00030 141102Z

20

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 FEA-01 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIEP-01 COME-00 EB-07 FPC-01 INT-05 OMB-01 SAM-01

OES-03 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 /115 W

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R 111035Z JAN 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1532

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T BAGHDAD 0030

KUWAIT PASS DOHA AND MUSCAT

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, SA, ENRG, XF

SUBJECT: ATTACKS ON KING FAISAL

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PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00030 141102Z

REF: JIDDA 7595

1. FOLLOWING PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO REFTTEL. PUBLIC IRAQI ATTACKS AGAINST KING FAISAL AND SAUDI ARABIA FOR PRO-AMERICAN POLICIES HAVE BECOME MUTED SINCE RABAT SUMMIT WHEN RCC VICE CHAIRMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN MET WITH FAISAL AND BEGAN PROCESS OF RAPPROCHEMENT WITH CONSERVATIVE ARAB STATES. CHANGE OF IRAQI POLICY TOWARD FAISAL IS DUE PRIMARILY TO OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE GOI ATTACHES TO ARAB SUPPORT IN CONFLICT WITH IRAN, AND FAISAL IS SEEN AS ESSENTIAL PARTICIPANT (BAGHDAD 857).

2. NEVERTHELESS, GOI CONTINUES TO CRITICIZE SAUDI ARABIA WITHOUT NAMING IT. FOR EXAMPLE, JANUARY 8 EDITORIAL IN OFFICIAL AL-JUMHURRIYA CLAIMS THAT U.S. THREATS OF MILITARY ACTION AGAINST ARAB OIL PRODUCERS ARE DESIGNED "TO PROVIDE CERTAIN STATES, KNOWN FOR THEIR CLOSE TIES WITH U.S., WITH EXCUSE TO EXCLUDE OIL FROM THE BATTLE AND TO RESPOND TO WASHINGTON'S DEMANDS BEHIND SCREEN OF AVOIDING CONFRONTATION AND DANGERS. THESE STATES WERE ENLISTED TO ASSIST WASHINGTON IN CLEARING THE WAY FOR ARAB-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT AND HELPING U.S. IN ECONOMIC CRISIS BY ACCEPTING REDUCED OR FROZEN OIL PRICES AND BEARING BRUNT OF INCREASED PRICES ON MANUFACTURED GOODS."

3. PRIVATELY, IRAQI LEADERS ARE EVEN MORE CRITICAL OF PRO-AMERICAN POLICIES OF SAUDI ARABIA. THEY ACCUSE ARAB REGIMES WHO HAVE ACCEPTED USG AS VALID INTERMEDIARY FOR SETTLEMENT AS BEING DUPED. IN BAATH VIEW, ISRAEL HAS NOT GIVEN UP ITS EXPANSIONIST AIMS AND USG LACKS POLITICAL WILL (BECAUSE OF "ORGANIC CONNECTION" BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ZIONISTS) TO FORCE ISRAEL INTO SETTLEMENT. WHILE THIS VIEW NOT MUTED IN INTEREST OF ARAB SOLIDARITY THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST IRAQI LEADERS HAVE CHANGED THEIR MINDS.
LOWRIE

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